Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0521
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, MRS. NELSON) SUBJECT: VISIT OF MRS. ROCKEFELLER

REF: A) ACHILLES-COOPER TELCON OF SEPT 25, B) HELSINKI 2030

1. THE REFERENCED TEL CONVERSATION REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON POINTS OF INTEREST (SHOPPING, MUSEUMS, ETC.) WHICH MRS. ROCKEFELLER MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN VISITING. THE EMBASSY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. OBVIOUSLY, HER BRIEF STAY IN HELSINKI WILL PERMIT VISITING ONLY A FEW OF THE POSSIBILITIES BELOW:

A. SHOPPING: THERE ARE NUMBEROUS INTERESTING SHOPS IN HELSINKI. FINLAND IS NOTED FOR ITS IMAGINATIVE DESIGNS IN GLASS, CERAMICS, TEXTILES AND JEWELRY. IN WOMEN'S FASHIONS THE NAMES OF MARIMEKKO AND VUOKKO HAVE BECOME WIDELY KNOWN. STONES AND BOUTIQUES FEATURING THESE ITEMS ARE FOUND IN THE DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AREA. IF TIME AND WEATHER PERMIT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER IS INTERESTED, THE THURSDAY MORNING (OCT 7) PROGRAM COULD BEGIN WITH A VISIT TO HELSINKI'S ATTRACTIVE TRADITIONAL HARBOR-SIDE OPEN MARKET SQUARE.

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B. MUSEUMS: THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING MUSEUMS IN HELSINKI. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM FEATURES HISTORICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND FOLKLORE COLLECTIONS; THE SEURASAARI OPEN-AIR MUSEUM OF FINNISH HISTORY FEATURES, IN ADDITION TO NORMAL MUSEUM EXHIBITS, RECONSTRUCTIONS OF ANCIENT FINNISH DWELLINGS, VILLAGES, ETC. THE GALLEN-KALLELA MUSEUM FEATURES PAINTINGS, GRAPHICS AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL OTHER MUSEUMS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ART GALLERIES. OBVIOUSLY, TIME LIMITATIONS WOULD PRECLUDE VISITING MORE THAN ONE OR TWO MUSEUMS OR GALLERIES.

C. CHURCH IN THE ROCK: A CHURCH IN THE CENTER OF HELSINKI CARVED OUT OF ROCK; AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE FINNISH ARCHITECTUAL GENIUS FOR BLENDING CONSTRUCTION INTO HARMONY WITH THE SURROUNDING NATURAL SETTING.

D. FINLANDIA HALL: A MODERN NEW CONFERENCE CENTER AND CONCERT HALL, SITE OF LAST YEAR'S FINAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION.

E. SIBELIUS MONUMENT: A MODERNISTIC SCULPTURE DEDICATED TO THE FAMOUS FINNISH COMPOSER. PERHAPS MEET WITH THE SCULPTOR WHO WOULD EXPLAIN THE WORK.

F. HVITTRASK: THIS WAS THE HOME AND STUDIO
OF FINNISH ARCHITECT ELIEL SAARINEN AND WAS
DESIGNED BY HIM AND TWO ASSOCIATES AROUND THE TURN
OF THE CENTURY. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING A VERY
PLEASANT SETTING AND AN EXCELLENT RESTARUANT, THE
HOUSE FEATURES EXHIBITIONS OF SOME OF SAARINEN'S
BEST KNOWN WORKS. LOCATED 15 MILES OUTSIDE OF
HELSINKI.

G. TAPIOLA GARDEN CITY: WORLD-FAMOUS FINNISH
NEW TOWN THAT HAS BEEN THE PATTERN UPON
WHICH NUMEROUS OTHER NEW TOWNS, INCLUDING RESTON,
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VA, HAVE BEEN BUILT.

2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE EMBASSY OF ANY OF THE ABOVE POINTS OF INTEREST WHICH MRS. ROCKEFELLER WOULD PARTICULARLY WANT TO VISIT. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY WILL PROCEED TO ARRANGE THE TOURING ON THE BASIS OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE MOST INTERESTING AND TO WORK OUT THE BEST.

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